

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 711

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate the STAR Center in Jackson on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to recognize those community-based organizations and associations that seek to improve the well-being of Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable organization is the West Tennessee Special Technology Access Resource (STAR) Center located in Jackson, which, for twenty-five years, has helped people of the region who have disabilities to reach their potential in life; and

WHEREAS, the STAR center was founded in 1988 by Margaret and Chuck Doumitt; their singular purpose for establishing the Center was to transform the lives of their own children, George and Angela, both of whom were losing their vision; and

WHEREAS, building on core values of dignity, individualized solutions, compassion, and technology, the STAR Center has developed expertise accommodating needs subsequent to conditions that compromise physical and cognitive abilities as well as communicative skills; and

WHEREAS, in the beginning, the Doumitts' goal was to mitigate debilitating effects of a deleterious optical condition afflicting their children, yet over time, their determination and the goodwill of the community have supported the development of a state-of-the-art assistive technology center with a diversified array of services to ameliorate and accommodate multiple types of disabilities; and

WHEREAS, today, in addition to vision services, the STAR Center provides art and music therapy, augmented communication, children's learning lab services, employment support services, vocational rehabilitation services, and home care services for those with

disabilities, and the center serves as a year-round intern site for training of students pursuing degrees in art and music therapy; and

WHEREAS, in the eyes and hearts of its founders, professional staff, and many supporters, the STAR Center represents a necessity for their community which was born from the need of citizens of all ages who have disabilities to fully live their lives and realize the greatest heights of their potential; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that, on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, this legislative body should pause to acknowledge the legacy and excellence of the STAR Center; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize the excellence of the STAR Center of Jackson in serving citizens with disabilities, congratulate the organization on its 25th anniversary, and extend our best wishes for equal and greater successes in achieving its mission in the coming years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.